

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 772

By Campbell

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the Tennessee Legislative Internship Program.

WHEREAS, in 1972, the Tennessee General Assembly established the Tennessee Legislative Internship Program, which over the last forty years has not only provided the members of the legislature exemplary staff assistance but has also enabled an unrivaled educational opportunity for thousands of college students from across Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, every year, a select number of juniors, seniors, and graduate students from Tennessee colleges and universities are chosen to serve as interns with the Tennessee General Assembly in Nashville, earning the special privilege of seeing state government operations from the legislative branch; and

WHEREAS, the governing boards of the four-year colleges and universities in Tennessee have been invited to designate their institutions to participate in the program. Thirty-four colleges and universities are so designated at the present time, including nine public institutions and twenty-six private institutions; and

WHEREAS, each institution participating in the program has been asked to appoint one member of its faculty to function as its official representative to the program. The faculty representative is expected to assist in the identification of students eligible for the internship and the general administration of the program on campus; and

WHEREAS, the participating public institutions of higher education and their faculty representatives are: Dr. David Kanervo, Austin Peay State University; Dr. Andrew Battista, East Tennessee State University; Lisa Huffstetler, University of Memphis; Dr. Mark Byrnes, Middle Tennessee State University; Dr. Brian Russell, Tennessee State University; Dr. Lori Maxwell, Tennessee Technological University; Dr. Christopher Horne, University of Tennessee,

Chattanooga; Dr. David Folz, University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and Dr. Christopher Baxter and Dr. Ted Mosch (retired), University of Tennessee, Martin; and

WHEREAS, the esteemed private higher education institutions of Tennessee and their faculty representatives participating in the Tennessee Legislative Internship Program are: Dr. Vaughn May, Belmont University; Heather Stone, Bethel College; Marcia Merck, Bryan College; Dr. Kara E. Stooksbury, Carson-Newman College; Neal Palmer, Christian Brothers College; Dr. Russ Cheatham and Ronie McPeak, Cumberland University; Dr. Alexander Arthur, Fisk University; Dr. Stephen H. Morris, Freed-Hardeman University; Donna Felty, King College; Dr. Marry H. Whaley, Knoxville College; Virginia Crump, Lane College; Dr. Steve Swindle, Lee University; Denita Hedgeman, Lemoyne-Owen College; Larry Thacker, Lincoln Memorial University; Dr. Dwight Tays, Lipscomb University; Bill Rutherford, Martin Methodist College; Dr. Rusty Winchester and Lori Sliwa, Maryville College; Dr. Robert Hall, Milligan College; Dr. Vera Chatman, Peabody College/Vanderbilt University; Dr. Mark Pohlman, Rhodes College; Dr. Ben McArthur, Southern College; Dr. Durwood Dunn, Tennessee Wesleyan College; Dr. Leroy Pepper, Trevecca Nazarene College; Tusculum College; Dr. Sean Evans, Union University; Andrea C. Hatcher, The University of the South; and Dr. Yollette Jones, Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, the authorizing statute provides that the Internship Program be administered through an overall Sponsoring Committee, composed of a Legislative Intern Committee and an Academic Intern Committee. The Legislative Intern Committee consists of the Speaker of the Senate, the Senate Minority Leader, and two other senators appointed by the Speaker, one from the majority party and one from the minority party; the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the House Minority Leader, and two other representatives appointed by the Speaker, one from the majority party and one from the minority party; and the Program Administrator; and

WHEREAS, currently, the Legislative Intern Committee is composed of the Speaker of the Senate Ron Ramsey, Chairman; Senator James Kyle; Senator Bo Watson; Senator

Reginald Tate; House Speaker Beth Harwell, Vice-Chairman; Representative Craig Fitzhugh; Representative Karen Camper; and Representative Ryan Haynes; and

WHEREAS, the Academic Intern Committee consists of five members selected by the Legislative Intern Committee from among the faculty representatives of participating colleges and universities with the membership rotating on an annual basis. The current members of the Academic Intern Committee are: Dr. David Kanervo, Austin Peay State University; Dr. David Folz, University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Dr. Brian Russell, Tennessee State University; Dr. Vaughn May, Belmont University; and Dr. Andrew Battista, East Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, the most recent class of legislative interns numbers 102 students from fifteen participating institutions of higher education and includes twenty-eight students selected for the 2012 legislative session through the Tennessee Legislative Internship Program process; and

WHEREAS, during their tenure in Nashville, previous intern classes have enjoyed the special privilege of interacting with and hearing from a variety of government officials at their weekly meetings, including the Chief Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Speaker of the Senate, legislative members from across the state, and representatives of the governor's office, to name but a few; and

WHEREAS, in addition to attending legislative sessions and committee hearings, the legislative interns have been afforded the rare opportunities to attend hearings before the Tennessee Supreme Court, tour state prison facilities, observe special state functions, and engage the local Nashville community through public service initiatives such as Habitat for Humanity, the Nashville Rescue Mission, and a host of other charitable organizations; and

WHEREAS, it is highly appropriate that we pause in our deliberations to pay tribute to this exemplary program and applaud its four decades of distinguished service to the Tennessee General Assembly and the good people of the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the Tennessee

Legislative Internship Program, honor its laudable service to the Tennessee General Assembly, and extend our deepest appreciation to the participating public and private higher education institutions of Tennessee and their esteemed faculty representatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.